

14
THE DAY OF CROQUET

FASHIONABLES PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THIS AMUSEMENT.
SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED.
The Player Is Also in Urgent Need of an Abundant Good Temper—The Game Has Surprising Popularity—The Principal Requisite Brains.

(Correspondence of the Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, July 17.—The game of croquet has again achieved prominence. For many a year it has been looked upon as one of the amusements of long ago. Now, however, it has, for some unknown reason, risen high in popular favor, and, in fact, promises to gain a position which it never before achieved. More than one social authority has no hesitation in saying that tennis and golf must look to their laurels. In both of these games muscular energy is in greater evidence than in croquet. Therefore, with fashion-



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lon's endorsement, it would seem that croquet would have a stronger hold than either of the others.
Modern croquet is a game requiring not only a deal of skill and knowledge, but also calm judgment, and, above all things, an imperishable temper. At any given moment, one player has the most complete command of the ball, and the other has to submit to being deprived of all chances of making progress. His turn may come if his opponent makes a mistake, or if he can succeed in the apparently hopeless task of hitting a single ball at the other end of the grounds, more than thirty yards away, and even this slender chance may not often be afforded.

Crack players are careful to wire an adversary for whose long shots they entertain any respect, finishing each break by placing the ball liable to be picked off under the shelter of one or more hoops. A judicious antagonist, when he has established a lead, will take the utmost care not to lose it by rickety brilliant strokes or by weakly showing mercy to his rival. In making a long break in other words, making several hoops in the same turn—the skill of the best players is chiefly shown in the admirable tactics employed to keep one ball under due control and another waiting in a central position to be used when required.

In striking this second ball, great precision is exhibited in first getting such a position near it that it can be forced towards the hoop which is next made. Croquet this year is played both upon lawns and upon sandal fields. For some reasons the first is the most pleasant, but when it comes to actual skill in playing, the sandal field should have supremacy. There is greater opportunity for clever shots, there are no obstacles in the way of concealed traps, and it becomes a game where science and brains are overmatch ignorance and lack of skillfulness. On the sand, provided the field is in good condition, the player must depend altogether upon his judgment and his cleverness in handling the mallet.

Another fact that is making croquet rather popular this season is that none of the expense which attaches to golf and also tennis is caused by it. The ordinary dress for croquet is that which every one wears. Neither knickerbockers nor short skirts are necessary. One does not have to wear a cap; neither is he obliged to provide himself with sticks or other equipment. The host or hostess is bound to provide the balls and mallets for the guests, and a player is not an inferior lot of either. It is not the rule in croquet, as in other games, that one has a favorite mallet or a favorite ball. One may prefer a certain velvet mallet, but that can be selected just as a man who goes into a billiard hall to play a game of billiards selects his cue of a certain weight.

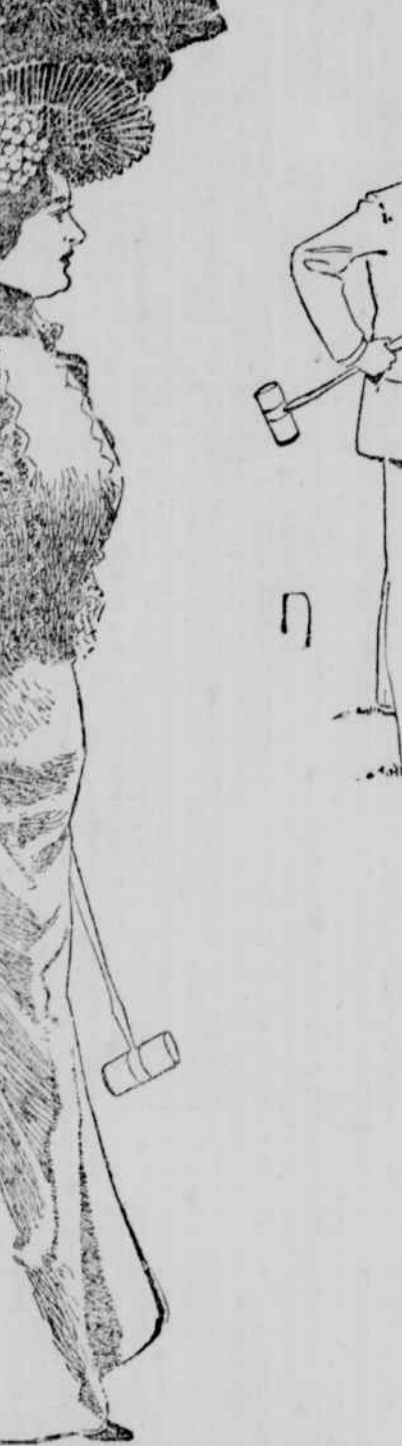
It is the general opinion of persons who are familiar with croquet that there are two reasons for lawn tennis having gained supremacy over it. One is that grounds have been especially prepared for tennis. The second is that tennis was something new. Now, however, tennis has been played for a sufficient length of time that the supremacy of the two games may be decided upon the merits of each. In the minds of most people, there is small question that croquet has the best claim for the

simple reason that in the long run it is the better able to hold the interest—because it really requires infinitely more skill and science.

No one can say at what time this year croquet forced itself upon the thoughts of people. Perhaps the first intimation of this was the formation of croquet clubs. The first amused, the second excited, the third resulted in croquet. Now it happens that croquet clubs are being formed right and left, and Dame Fashion herself has set the seal of approval upon the revival of the old-time society amusement. In fact, that if society often wanders after strange gods, it invariably returns, sooner or later, to the best that is offered to it. No one familiar with the two games can deny that croquet is as scientific as billiards. Billiards have, and presumably always will be, a favorite pastime. The revival of croquet indicates that hereafter it will be considered in the same category.

Very many persons have, in some way, gained the impression that since croquet has comparatively ceased to be a national amusement it is nothing at all. Far from this being true, there is a National Croquet Association, which meets in the Norwich, Conn., this year on the Monday preceding the third Tuesday in August.

There are no better grounds in the country than those to be found in New York city, at the corner of Eighty-eighth street and Madison avenue—sandal street and Madison avenue—sandal



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grounds, too, and not a lawn. Old-fashioned Staten Island, boasts of delightful grounds where the old salts enjoy themselves. There are croquet grounds at Twenty-second and Bryn Mawr, Philadelphia. Leominster, Mass.; Northampton, Danbury, Conn.; New London, and Middletown, in the same State; Springfield and Shelburne Falls, Mass.; as well as Cottage City, the star town of Martha's Vineyard, have excellent grounds.

Further south are Washington city, Wilmington, Del., and Norfolk, Va. Croquet has become a decided fad in each of these, and goodness knows how many persons are playing it. Then, out West, Los Angeles and Palo Alto, Cal., have enthusiastic clubs and their membership is growing in surprising degree. The Trenton (N. J.) Association, and the players of Albion, N. Y., are not in the least inferior. In many of these places the croquet tournaments are of frequent occurrence. The crack players of the country are said to be at Elyria, O.

The up-to-date croquet player must remember that the game should be played on a ground as nearly level as possible, and ordinarily 36 feet by 72 feet in size. In every instance, the ground should be well rolled and sand lightly sprinkled over it, this latter being to hold the balls, and prevent them slipping and sliding, and thus give unintentional advantage to poor shots. The decline of lawn tennis in the favor of croquet is the result of the fact that croquet is fully shown by the fact that all national or tournament games are played on what is called dirt-ground. If there is one thing more than another, it should be called the central principle of the game of croquet, it is accuracy, and this is so much easier on the plain dirt-ground than the lawn, that the comparison shows the wisest possible difference.

The most fashionable croquet tournament of modern society is known as the eight-mallet game, meaning, of course, that eight players engage therein. A croquet is an impossibility, so far as success is concerned. Another requirement is that the player must thoroughly understand the degrees of force necessary in striking a ball. Given these two requisites, and a player is almost certain of general success. Without them, he might as well cease attempting to play the game.

Inasmuch as croquet is both economical and fashionable, we may look forward to seeing the popularity of the reward to tennis steadily. It is all the more likely to gain favor, because it can be played by persons of all ages.

The same quality of cut-glass that you saw manufactured at the Libbey Glass Works on the Midway Plaisance at the World's Fair—you can buy it almost anywhere, but look for this trade-mark—cut on every piece.

FIRE IN PETERSBURG.

A LARGE THREE-STORY TRUNK-FABRIK BURNED.
The Origin Unknown—The Loss and Insurance—Approaching Church Dedication—Called to Chapel Hill—Court Notes.

PETERSBURG, VA., July 17.—(Special.) The large three-story brick and frame building, owned and occupied as a trunk factory by Messrs. Romaine & Barham, on Bollingbrook street, in Blandford, was destroyed by fire about 2 o'clock this morning. How the fire originated is not known, but is supposed either to have been the work of an incendiary or to have been accidentally caused by a spark from a passing locomotive on the Norfolk and Western road. The fire was first seen in the southwest corner of the top story of the building. There was a watchman in the building, but he was not aware of the fire until the alarm was given. The destruction of the fac-

tory was a serious loss to the community. The building was a fine specimen of modern architecture, and was well equipped with all the latest machinery. The loss to the owners is estimated at \$100,000. The insurance company is expected to pay the loss.

The church dedication is expected to be a grand affair. The church is a fine specimen of modern architecture, and is well equipped with all the latest machinery. The loss to the owners is estimated at \$100,000. The insurance company is expected to pay the loss.

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CITY OF MANCHESTER

NEWS OF THE DAY GLEANED ON THE SOUTH SIDE.
ACCIDENT TO MRS. BLANKENSHIP.
Her Injuries Not So Serious as First Feared—Negro Arrested With Brasses in His Possession—Personalities, &c.

Mrs. Susan Blankenship, who resides with her son on Thirteenth street, near the railroad, in Manchester, was the victim a few days ago of a most painful accident, from which she is now slowly recovering. Mrs. Blankenship was standing in a chair to reach some article upon a high shelf, when the chair tilted and threw her heavily to the floor. It was at first thought that her injuries were of a very serious nature, but when Dr. Thomas P. Matthews made an investigation he found that no bones were broken. She has been improving steadily since and her physician now thinks she will be well in a few days. Mrs. Blankenship is very well known in this city, and her many friends were distressed to know of her accident.

FIRES ON THE NEGRO.

A negro man burdened with a lot of railroad brasses had an experience early yesterday morning which, it can be said with safety, he has no desire to have repeated. In the wee hours Officer Wright was attracted in patrolling his beat, near Hull and Fifth streets, by a noise as if some one were attempting to get into a house from the rear towards Bainbridge street. Going in the direction of the sound, he saw a negro man of large stature making for the opposite direction with a fleetness of foot that would have done credit to a deer. The officer followed, and when he saw it would be impossible to catch him, resorted to his pistol. He fired on the fleeing man three times, and thinks his last shot was effective. He saw the fellow fall, but a search failed to reveal him, and nothing more has been seen of him. Later a bag containing brasses was found, and it is supposed that the man was trying to secrete his stolen property when the officer's attention was attracted.

WARM FIGHT IN HALIFAX.

The Contest for the Senatorial Nomination Very Close.
SOUTH BOSTON, VA., July 17.—(Special.)—Preliminary meetings were held to-day, and delegates elected to the county convention, which meets on the 19th. Houston instructs half his delegation for Tyler and half for Ellison. It is impossible to get any information as to the action on Governor of the other precincts, as the very bitter fight between W. P. Harkdale and W. J. Jordan, the incumbent, for the State Senate, occupies the attention of every one. The county probably is about evenly divided between Ellison and Tyler. Houston instructs for Montague for Attorney-General. Returns from all but three precincts show that the fight between Harkdale and Jordan is very close, with the chances in favor of Harkdale.

Beta Theta Pi.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., July 17.—(Special.)—The fifty-eighth annual convention of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity is now in session here. It is the largest in the history of the society, delegates being present from all parts of the country. Among them are W. C. Moore and W. C. Cabell, of the University of Virginia, and Ed. A. Barnett, of Hampden-Sydney.

The Fayerweather Bequest.

CHARLOTTEVILLE, VA., July 17.—(Special.)—A check for \$75,000 has been mailed to the University of Virginia as an instalment of the Fayerweather bequest.

RACE MEET NEXT SATURDAY.

Independent Cycle Club to Have Speed Trials at the Exposition.
What is expected to be the most interesting event to the wheeling public of Richmond and vicinity will be the second annual race meet of the Independent Cycle Club, which will take place at the Exposition Grounds on Saturday, July 24th, at 4 P. M.

As has been said heretofore, the Independent Cycle Club has always been the leader in everything pertaining to bicycling, and it is said to the credit of the young men who organized the Independent Club, that nowhere in the State of Virginia has a bicycle club ever met with such success starting under the same conditions. With no capital, and with only the push and energy which characterizes the young business-man of Richmond, they have overcome all obstacles, and have made for themselves a record of which they may well be proud.

The following gentlemen compose the Race Committee: E. H. Mayfield (chairman), L. W. Ryland (secretary), J. H. B. Peay (treasurer), F. E. Conrad, Dr. Frank S. Steel, and C. E. Locher. All the events will be held upon the Exposition grounds on Saturday evening at 6:30. Entries for all novices and handicaps are now closed.

Appended is the programme of events, together with the mile, novice—First prize, \$10; second, \$5; third, \$2.50. Morgan & Wright, tires, from Morgan & Wright, value \$10; second, one P. F. saddle, J. E. Stonebraker & Brother, value \$4; third, one cyclometer, Ingersoll & Brother, value \$2.

Second race—one quarter mile, open—First prize, silver water set, Dr. Buchanan, \$5; second prize, Dresden china tobacco-box, \$5; T. W. Tice & Sons, silver lamp, Smith-Courtesy Company, \$5.

Third race—one half mile, open—First prize, one diamond ring, \$5; Independent Cycle Club, second prize, one sweater, Wright tires, \$5; third prize, one saddle, \$2.50.

Fourth race—one mile, open—First prize, \$10; second, \$5; third, \$2.50. Morgan & Wright, tires, from Morgan & Wright, value \$10; second, one P. F. saddle, J. E. Stonebraker & Brother, value \$4; third, one cyclometer, Ingersoll & Brother, value \$2.

Fifth race—one mile, open—First prize, silver service, \$5; Independent Cycle Club, second prize, one sweater, Wright tires, \$5; third prize, one saddle, \$2.50.

Sixth race—one mile, open—First prize, \$10; second, \$5; third, \$2.50. Morgan & Wright, tires, from Morgan & Wright, value \$10; second, one P. F. saddle, J. E. Stonebraker & Brother, value \$4; third, one cyclometer, Ingersoll & Brother, value \$2.

Seventh race—one mile, open—First prize, \$10; second, \$5; third, \$2.50. Morgan & Wright, tires, from Morgan & Wright, value \$10; second, one P. F. saddle, J. E. Stonebraker & Brother, value \$4; third, one cyclometer, Ingersoll & Brother, value \$2.

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Further Reduced Prices

HAVE BEEN MADE IN ORDER TO CLOSE THE
FIRE SALE STOCK
and make the necessary repairs at the store, that are to begin on or about August 10th.

ALL THE GOODS turned over by the underwriters from the fire in the building of 429 EAST BROAD STREET, occupied by

A. GREENTREE

AND AMOUNTING AS YET TO NEAR

\$5,000 in Seasonable Merchandise,

SUCH AS

Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing,

Furnishings, Hats, Caps, Etc.

All the damaged goods at AN EIGHTH OF THEIR ORIGINAL COST; the undamaged for HALF AND LESS, as sample prices below:

- Men's Pants, contracted for to have been sold for \$1.50, for..... 35c.
- Men's Pants, contracted to sell for \$2, are marked..... 75c.
- Men's Pants, were to be sold for \$3, are..... \$1.00.
- Men's Pants, contracted to sell for \$4, are..... \$1.25.
- Men's Suits, were marked to sell for \$8, for..... \$2.50.
- Men's All-Wool Cheviot Suits, bought to be sold for \$10, are marked..... \$3.50.
- Men's Fancy Imported Cheviots, marked to sell for \$12, are..... \$4.00.
- Children's Suits, bought to sell for \$2, for..... 55c.
- Children's Pants, ages 4 to 10, were bought to sell for 35c., for..... 15c.
- Men's Black Alpaca Coats, were bought to sell for \$1.50, for..... 75c.
- Office Coats for..... 25c.
- Ladies', Men's, and Boys' 4-ply Linen Collars for..... 45c.
- Boys' Straw Hats, were to be sold for 35c., for..... 15c.
- Men's \$1.50 and \$2 Straw Hats for..... 50c.
- Men's Percale Shirts, were to be sold for 75c., for..... 25c.
- Men's Crash Hats for..... 45c.
- Men's Suspenders, bought to be sold for 20c., for..... 15c.

A HARVEST FOR NARROW FEET

AND LOVERS OF POINTED-TOE SHOES.

the great reduction offered on strictly high-grade Shoes in this sale:

NOTICE

- 76 pairs Ladies' Black or Tan Oxfords, sizes 1 to 3, narrow width \$2, \$2.50 and \$3 grades, down to..... 25c.
- 42 pairs Ladies' Black or Tan Oxfords, were \$2 and \$2.50, now..... \$1.
- 27 pairs Ladies' Black Box Calf Oxfords, were \$4, now..... \$1.50.
- 56 pairs Ladies' Tan Kid Kid Oxfords, were \$3 and \$3.50, now..... \$1.50.
- 78 pairs Ladies' Black Kid Oxfords, were \$2.50 and \$3, now..... \$1.50.
- 43 pairs Ladies' Hand-Welt Oxfords, were \$3.50 and \$4, now..... \$2.
- 16 pairs Ladies' Tan Kid Congress, were \$5, now..... \$1.50.
- 33 pairs Children's Strap Slippers, sizes 8 to 10 1/2, were \$1.50, now..... 50c.
- 106 pairs Children's Tan or Black Oxfords, sizes 5 to 10 1/2, were \$1.50, now..... 50c.
- 78 pairs Infants' Strap Slippers, sizes 2 to 5 1/2, were 75c., now..... 25c.
- 31 pairs Boys' Tan Lace Shoes, sizes 11 to 5 1/2, were \$2.50, now..... \$1.

A CHANCE FOR THE MEN:

197 pairs of J. A. Banister's and Stacy, Adams & Co.'s best Vicci Kid, Enamel, and Russia Calf Lace Shoes, the regular \$2.50 \$5 and \$6 grades, down to..... \$2.50

Cash—No Exchange.

C. F. Cross Shoe Co., (Limited)

415 EAST BROAD STREET.

which convenes to-morrow: J. R. Perc-

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NEW UNIFORM A CERTAINTY.

First Regiment Officers Met Last Night—General Military News.

There was an enthusiastic and harmonious meeting of the commanders of companies of the First Regiment held last night at headquarters in the Armory, whereat the action of the regimental officers in selecting a new uniform was unanimously endorsed.

Colonel Jones presided, and all the staff officers and captains were present. The session lasted for three hours, and all the preliminaries were so arranged that bids will be asked for early next week.

Thirty-five members of Company B, with ten men from other companies, will leave next Saturday afternoon for Ocean View on the Chesapeake and Potomac River Railroad, to spend a week. Captain Frank Cunningham will be in command, and Lieutenants Russell and Miller will be also of the party. The tents will be pitched on the hotel grounds. All the men have had bathing suits made of dark-blue material, marked with a large B.